



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

**KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH**  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

**JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, M.D.**  
ADMINISTRATOR

February 26, 2025

To: COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair and  
Honorable Members

From: Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and  
Sr. Advisor to Governor Josh Green MD on Healthcare Innovation

Re: SB 1365 -- RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE  
COMPACT

Hearing: Thursday, February 27, 2025 @ 1:00 pm, Conference Room 211

Position: SUPPORT

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Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, given our physician workforce shortage. However, this additional protection is needed. We defer to DCCA on the costs they will incur and funding that may be required to comply.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
and  
Senate Committee on Ways and means  
Tuesday, February 27, 2025  
1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 211 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 1365, RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT**

Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chelsea Fukunaga, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical Board (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Hawaii Medical Board as the State of Principal License to investigate and request criminal history records of qualified physicians seeking licensing through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (Compact).

For the Committees' information, partial implementation of the Compact went into effect in Hawaii on January 1, 2025. To date, 183 physicians have been issued licenses to practice in Hawaii through the IMLC. The Board is hopeful that the expedited licensure process the Compact offers will allow physicians to quickly obtain licenses to practice, thereby increasing access to health care within the State.

In order to fully participate in the Compact, authorization to conduct criminal history record checks is required. The ability to conduct criminal history record checks will enable Hawaii to be designated as a state of principal licensure within the Compact, allowing physicians to apply for multi-state licensure through Hawaii. In addition, the ability to conduct criminal history record checks would also assist the Board in screening applicants to ensure that licenses are only issued to qualified, safe, and competent physicians.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

To: The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Jacce Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 27, 2025

Re: Support of SB1365 – Relating to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

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The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB1365, which authorizes the Hawai'i Medical Board (HMB), as the State of Principal License, to investigate and request criminal history records of qualified physicians seeking licensing through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC). This measure will help modify the existing IMLC statute to ensure that the benefits of entering the compact can be fully realized in our state. We thank the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs for their diligence in implementing Act 112 (2023).

The intent the IMLC is to safely streamline the licensing process for physicians who want to practice in multiple states – including Hawai'i. The compact makes it possible to extend the reach of physicians, improve access to medical specialists, and leverage the use of medical technologies, such as telemedicine. While making it easier for physicians to obtain licenses to practice in multiple states, the compact also has the added benefit of enhancing the ability of partner states to share investigative and disciplinary information.

We sincerely appreciate the Committees taking the time to hear this measure and we respectfully request your support of SB1365.

*The mission of The Queen's Health System is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*



**February 27, 2025 at 1:00 pm**  
**Conference Room 211**

**Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

To: Chair Jarrett Keohokalole  
Vice Chair Carol Fukunaga

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

To: Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Vice Chair Sharon Y. Moriwaki

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy  
AVP, Government Affairs  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

**Re: Support**  
**SB 1365, Relating to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

We write today in **support** of this measure, which authorizes the Hawaii Medical Board to conduct criminal background checks as required to issue licenses under the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. This measure is a necessary step to ensure Hawaii's full participation in the compact and to expand access to healthcare across our islands.

This measure ensures that Hawaii can fully implement the compact by authorizing the Hawaii Medical Board to conduct required criminal background checks as part of the licensure process. These background checks are a standard component of physician licensing nationwide and serve as an important safeguard to protect patients and uphold the integrity of our medical system. Without this authority, Hawaii risks being unable to issue licenses under the compact, limiting the benefits that our state sought in joining this national effort.

Hawaii has long faced challenges in recruiting and retaining physicians, particularly in rural and underserved areas. By joining the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, the state has taken a significant step forward in streamlining the licensing process for qualified physicians, allowing them to practice in Hawaii with greater ease. This will help increase the number of available providers and improve timely access to care for our residents.

We appreciate the legislature's continued support of recruiting and retaining physicians and for the opportunity to support this measure.



February 27, 2025

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: SB1365 - RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and  
Members of the Committees:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1365, which authorizes the Hawaii Medical Board as the State of Principal License to investigate and request criminal history records of qualified physicians seeking licensing through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and appropriates funds.

Hawaii's participation in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) is one of many important pieces of the statewide strategy to address our healthcare workforce shortage. This measure is important to ensure that appropriate background checks can be completed by the Hawaii Medical Board which further strengthens our licensing process and ensures the highest quality care and safety for all of Hawaii. This bill will also allow Hawaii to fully participate as a state of principal license in the IMLC with all reciprocal privileges and help to strengthen our process and streamline the experience particularly for Hawaii providers wishing to participate.

We appreciate the legislatures efforts to ensure that we are addressing strengthening our healthcare workforce in multifaceted ways and your foresight in passing the original IMLC bill in 2023.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Dawn Kurisu  
Assistant Vice President  
Community and Government Relations